

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Capturing wildlife with brushstrokes



Born in 1951, Zettie Jones was raised on a rice farm outside of Stuttgart. The oldest of six, she spent much of her time working or hunting around the farm. Her interest in art started at a young age as she recalls an urging from her father who handed her a Maynard Reece calendar and asked, "Can you paint this?" Since that time this widely acclaimed and world-renowned wildlife artist has produced thousands of memories for collectors and patrons. A self-taught artist, Jones' paintings are a mirror into her life and passions. She has an ability to vary her style and handle meticulous detail as easily as impressionism.

Each picture is of an actual place with a real story behind it, and her subjects are as varied as her interests, which send her across North America for her field studies and commissions.

The introduction of "The Old Duck Hunter," her first limited edition that was introduced in the 1984 publication of the Arkansas Game and Fish calendar, truly launched her career. As a conservationist and an avid hunter, her works have been associated with numerous groups including Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, The National Grouse Society and Whitetail Unlimited and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for these associations. Jones has designed trout, turkey and duck stamps. She was selected to provide the artwork for the 2003-2004 Arkansas Waterfowl Hunting

Stamp, the first Arkansan ever to be selected. Since the program began in 1981, the Arkansas stamp artists have been a who's who of internationally known wildlife artists.

One of the milestones for Jones was her induction into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2003.

With the pains associated with arthritis, Jones said a hoe handle is much easier to grasp than a paintbrush, but she does occasionally accept commission work upon request. However, she has become whole-heartedly involved in her Crockets Bluff farm and raising things in her garden to

interact with people at local farmers markets along with her husband, Kenneth.

Jones has earned a position among the ranks of our nation's leading wildlife artists. We are fortunate that she is not only a native Arkansan and part of the rich history of the Delta Byways, but also that she and her husband are long-time members of First Electric Cooperative.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of First Electric Cooperative will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, in the Office of the Cooperative at 1000 South J.P. Wright Loop Road, Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas, beginning at 10 a.m. for the following purposes:

- To pass on reports for the previous fiscal year;
- To elect two (2) directors for the cooperative to serve a term of six (6) years; and,

- To transact such other business as properly may come before the meeting.

Any member planning to attend the annual meeting, who has special needs, is asked to contact the cooperative at 800-489-7405 prior to the annual meeting for assistance.

Respectfully,
Robert Maertens, Secretary/Treasurer

Rushing joins co-op's Board of Directors

Karissa Rushing of Benton has been named to the First Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. She represents members in the Benton district.

Rushing is a Saline County native who returned to the area in 2002. She owned and operated a small business for almost a decade. The former Miss Arkansas has a background in advertising and public relations and has worked with nonprofit organizations in planning and development. She currently is an administrator at the Benton campus of Fellowship Bible Church where she manages business operations, organizational planning and special events. Rushing is a member of Fellowship and active in women's ministries, small groups and local missions.



First Electric Cooperative now offers outage information via text

Signing up is easy!

1. Create a new text message on your cell phone.
2. Type "FECC" in the body of the message.
3. Send the text to number 85700.

Please note that the cell phone you use must be on file with First Electric. You can call 800-489-7405 to add the number to your account. Please allow at least 24 hours for the system to update before reporting an outage via text.

In the event of a power outage, simply text "OUT" to 85700. The system will ask you to confirm your address and then send restoration status updates when you request them.

Other keywords:

- "STATUS" – You will be sent a restoration update on the outage, including an estimated time of restoration if available.
- "HELP" – You will be sent the outage reporting number 888-827-3322.
- "FECC STOP" – You no longer will receive notifications until you enroll again.

The co-op does not charge for this service, but standard text messaging rates from your carrier still apply. Need help? Call First Electric at 800-489-7405.

Clear rights-of-way help prevent power outages

Keeping trees and other vegetation away from First Electric Cooperative's 10,000 miles of power lines is necessary to keep the community safe and to help minimize power outages.

"All lines are maintained on at least a five-year schedule," said Tim Felty, right-of-way maintenance supervisor. "In more populated areas, First Electric employees and contractors maintain the 15-foot clearance on either side of the line on a four-year schedule."

Trees and other vegetation touching lines conduct electricity and can cause power quality issues, such as blinking lights. Trees also cause outages when they fall and take down lines and damage equipment. Most importantly, trees touching lines pose a safety hazard to anyone who comes into contact with them. Members are asked to call First Electric at 800-489-7405 if they notice a tree or other vegetation in or close to lines. A right-of-way crew will evaluate the situation and determine if tree removal or branch trimming is necessary.

In 2014, right-of-way maintenance is scheduled in the following areas: Bryant, Tull, Heber Springs, Searcy, Beebe, Sylvan Hills, Lonoke, Perryville, Hollis and Wabaseka.

First Electric members can help the co-op maintain its rights-of-way in several ways. First, consider the mature height of a tree before planting. Second, contact Arkansas One-Call at 811 at least 48 hours before digging so that underground utilities may be marked. Third, avoid planting



fast-growing trees near the right-of-way. Gum, sycamore, locust and pine are trees that Felty does not recommend be planted within 40 feet of lines. Lastly, consider clearances needed to perform maintenance on underground facilities before landscaping near pad-mounted transformers.

Right-of-way maintenance is a priority at First Electric and necessary to provide the best service possible. Members can assist the co-op by following planting guidelines and reporting potential problems to 800-489-7405. As always, we appreciate your cooperation when working in your area.